(a) whether the Union Government have sanctioned any amount for protection of Palasbari, Mukalmua-Howlighat and adjoining areas from erosion by the river Brahmaputra; and

(b) if so, the funds allotted separately for both the projects, the funds utilised, and the net results achieved thereby?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) and (b). The Union Government has released a loan of Rs. 25 crores during 1995-96 to the Government of Assam as Central assistance for implementation of twenty approved flood management schemes which include schemes for Palasbari, Mukalmua - Howlighat and adjoining areas on Brahmaputra river. The State Government has reported that they could not utilise the entire amount released by the Centre during 1995-96 and the unutilised amount has been kept in reserve as revenue receipt. These funds would be utilised during 1996-97 to implement the balance approved schemes including those for Palasbari and Mukalmua.

[Translation]

Tax Free Import

3893. JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA:
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether hospitals of the country had been given independant hand by the Government to import instruments and machines tax free;

(b) if so, whether certain terms and conditions have been announced for this tax free import;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government have prepared any list of those hospitals which had benefited themselves by importing machines and instruments;

(e) if so, the names of the hospitals and the instruments and machines imported by them;

(f) whether the Government have obtained any report regarding compliance with the laid down conditions; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) (a) to (c). Exemption from Customs Duty was permitted on the import of equipment spares etc. by Government and Charitable/semi-charitable private hospitals. provided they abided by certain conditions which included providing a percentage of the facilities free, to the poor. The customs Notifications extending this scheme in 1988 was rescinded in 1994.

(d) to (g). A Civil Writ petition has been filed relating inter-alia to the manner in which the exemptions were allowed and utilised and the Court has ordered an enquiry into the matter. The matter is sub-judice.

Technical Education Under Indo-German Project

3894. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the schemes of Technical Education under Indo-German project being implemented in various States, State-wise;

(b) whether Government of Madhya Pradesh has submitted a proposal for the fourth phase of Indo-German project to the Government; and

(c) if so, the action taken by the Union Government on the said proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) The following Projects of Technical Education are being implemented; State-wise;

Tamil Nadu :	-	Institute of Remote Sensing, Anna University, Madras.
	-	Environmental Studies Institute, Anna University, Madras.
	-	Ocean Engineering Centre, Indian Institute of Technology, Madras.
Madhya Pradesh :	-	Development of Polytechnics.
West Bengal :	-	Cryogenic Engineering Centre, Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The proposal outline has been sent to the Government of FRG.

Technical Institution in Rajsthan

3895. SHRI GANGA RAM KOLI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to open a technical education centre in Byana-Dholpur area of Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which this institution is likely to be established?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

[English]

National Policy on Dev Dasi Pratha

3896. SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI NAVINCHANDRA MEHTA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to formulate a National Policy for the abolition of Dev Dasi Pratha for social upliftment of women;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, reasons therefor and the steps to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) There does not seem to be a need for a National Policy on the subject since the problem is of a localised nature. However, the concerned States viz. Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra where Devdasi system was prevalent, have enacted laws for the prohibition of Devdasi System. The commercial aspect of this practice attracts provision of the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956 as amended in 1978 and in 1986. This supplements the substantive laws against kidnapping, sale, abduction and wrongful detention of women and girls.

Godavari University

3897. SHRI K.S. RAYADU: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether proposal for setting up of a new Godavari University in Andhra Pradesh has been received; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The National Policy on Education - 1986, with modifications undertaken in 1992, states that, in view of the need to effect an all-round improvement in the institutions, it is proposed that, in the near future, the main emphasis will be on the consolidation of, and expansion of facilities in, the existing institutions.

[Translation]

Frauds in Army Medical Corps, Lucknow

3898. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the army officials have submitted a report to the Headquarters requesting a thorough investigation into the alleged fraud of Rs. 700 Crores in the Pay and Accounts Office of the Army Medical Corps, Lucknow;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is resentment among the jawans of the units regarding its functioning;

(d) the nature of work handled by this office and under whose control this office functions;

(e) whether the CBI had conducted a raid and caught the guilty officials red-handed for taking bribes during the last one year;

(f) if so, the action taken in this regard;

(g) whether the army is also carrying on investigation in the functioning of this office; and

(h) if so, the details thereof and the results achieved thereby?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) There have been some complaints regarding non-adjustment of dues and delays in final settlement of accounts in the Pay & Accounts Office, Army Medical Corps, Lucknow.

(d) The Pay & Accounts Office, Army Medical Corps, Lucknow maintains the accounts relating to the pay and allowances and Provident Fund and adjusts other miscellaneous allowances of JCOs/ORs belonging to the Army Medical Corps. It is a sub-office of the Defence Accounts Department under a Controller who is under the administrative control of Controller General of Defence Accounts.

(e) Yes, Sir. In three different raids, five individuals were apprehended.